REVERSIBLE!

Eh heh heh! ♥
NATSUME, THAT KID'S HERE AGAIN.
NATSUME-SENPAI!
BUT I WANT YOU TO TRY THEM, SENPAI...
UH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO STUFF LIKE THIS.
He's here again?
Again?
I MADE SOME SWEETS FOR YOU DURING COOKING CLASS, SENPAI! ♡
BUT THIS IS HOW I FEEL, SO PLEASE TAKE IT!
Sigh...
I'M BETTER AT COOKING THAN YOU, SO
EHH!? YOU'RE SO HARSH, SENPAI!

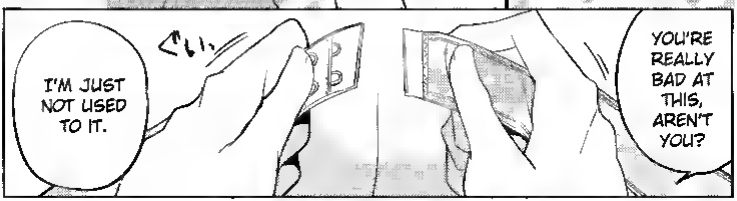
AN UNDERCLASSMAN ADORES AOI, BUT THE PERSON HIMSELF...

YOU'RE POPULAR WITH THE UNDER-CLASSMEN, AOI-CHAN.
Sigh...
I'M NOT PARTICULARLY KIND, THOUGH...
SO EVEN IF I'M CHASED BY SOME-ONE ALL FLIRTY LIKE THAT...
PLUS, IF I HAD TO SAY WHICH...
I LIKE BEING THE ONE WHO CHASES.

THE YOUNG MAN WORRIES
ABOUT HIS PAST SELF, AND HIS CURRENT SELF.
リバーシブル!
Reversible School Life
CH. 9
IT MIGHT BE ALL OVER.
DICCA SUEMITSU

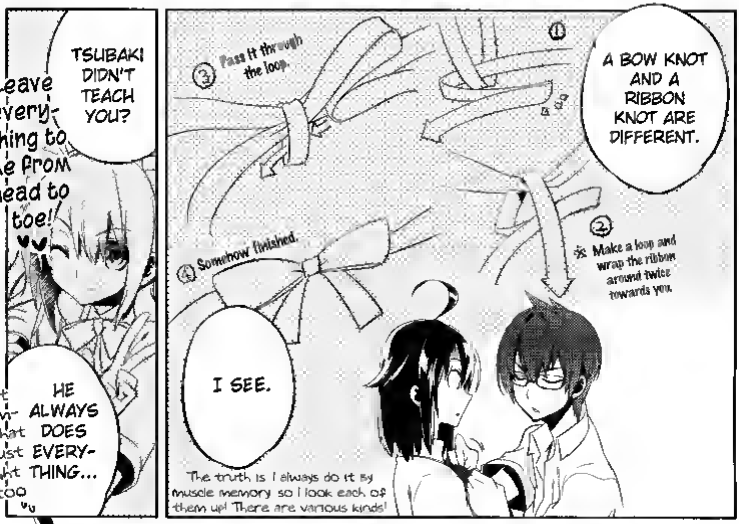
ONCE AGAIN, AT THIS AGE,
AND THAT WHILE CHANGING
Did you do that assign-ment?
Ahh, yeah.
Wanna see?
HAVING THIS
Did you see that on TV yes-terday?
Yeah!
I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT IT UP UNTIL NOW, THOUGH.
AHH, DAMN IT!
GEH! URGH!
Erm...
BEING IN THE SAME PLACE... MAKES IT FEEL LIKE I'M IN ANOTHER DIMEN-SION.

AOI-CHAN, CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND?


YOU'RE REALLY BAD AT THIS, AREN'T YOU?
I'M JUST NOT USED TO IT.

……
WHAT'S WRONG?

AH, WELL... NORMAL BOYS AND GIRLS WOULDN'T DO THIS SORT OF THING.
WHY?
I'M DONE! ☆
I'D BE USED TO IT IF I WAS A GIRL, SO I'D BE ABLE TO DO IT MYSELF.
AH, I SEE.
THANKS!
SURE.
WELL, EVEN IF I'M NOT USED TO IT, IT'LL WORK OUT SOMEHOW!
All right!
SHUU-CHAN, THAT RIBBON LOOKS WEIRD.
HUH!?


TSUBAKI DIDN'T TEACH YOU?
Leave everything to me from head to toe!
HE ALWAYS DOES EVERYTHING...
And I can't remember what you just taught me, too "u
A BOW KNOT AND A RIBBON KNOT ARE DIFFERENT.
① Somehow finished.
② Make a loop and wrap the ribbon around twice towards you.
③ Pass it through the loop.
I SEE.
The truth is I always do it by muscle memory so I look each of them up! There are various kinds!

IF YOU WENT TO A COED SCHOOL, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D BE POPULAR?

BUT YOU CAN DO A LOT OF STUFF, AOI-CHAN.
I'M BAD AT SCIENCE AND MATH.
And swimming.
Oh, yeah, that's right
I SEE...
ざわ
ざわ

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ONE, SO I WOULDN'T KNOW.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE...
NOT LIKE WHAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE I LIKE ANYONE, SO I THINK IT'D BE POINT-LESS EVEN IF I WAS POPULAR.
STUFF LIKE THAT HAPPENS, DOESN'T IT?
AHH,
UH, DAMN IT.
REALLY...

AT PRESENT FEMALE CLOTHING
It'll be on the test
And because of that, take care in taking notes of this.

ONE WEEK LATER. MALE CLOTHING
HEY! SHOW ME YOUR HOME-WORK!
I didn't do it!
Show me your math homework
THEN IT'S A TRADE-OFF.

TWO WEEKS LATER FEMALE CLOTHING
LOOK AT THIS. YAEZAKI-SAN TOYED WITH MY HAIR.
Shy
Shy
I-I SEE.
A job well done

NOPE, AND IN ANY CASE, EVEN IF I WENT BACK, THERE'D BE NO ONE TO HANG OUT WITH.
AHH, THAT'S TRUE.
I wanna eat udon noodles! I'm in the mood for chilled udon, though.
ARE YOU GOING BACK HOME?
SUMMER VACATION STARTS NEXT WEEK.
Ahh! I'm starving!
THREE WEEKS LATER: MALE CLOTHING

Y-YEAH
I FIT INTO SOME OF TOUMA'S CLOTHES; AREN'T I GREAT?
FOUR WEEKS LATER: FEMALE CLOTHING
All right!

にま
NO, I'M SAYING YOU'RE GREAT IN GENERAL.
I definitely wouldn't fit into that.
WHAT'S WITH YOUR INDIFFERENCE?
GREAT. YOU'RE GREAT.

IT MIGHT BE
ALL OVER FOR ME.

BUT I THINK I HAVE A NORMAL FIGURE, SO EVEN SO, I'M HAPPY.
AND I'D REALIZE IT IF I HAD GAINED WEIGHT,
IT MAKES YOU FEEL HAPPY WHEN CLOTHES FIT PERFECTLY,
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HIS STRAIGHT-FORWARD SMILE.

REALLY, THEY'RE CUTE.
NO WAY, DON'T PRAISE ME!
CUTE AS USUAL, I SEE.
WELCOME BACK!
I'M HOME!
THERE'S NO WAY A KID TRYING HIS BEST TO BE CUTE CAN'T BE CUTE.

AND I THINK OF HIM AS A FRIEND, TOO.
HUH!?
YOUR CLO-THES!?
Shrug
MY CLOTHES ARE SUPER CUTE.
HE JUST THINKS OF ME AS A FRIEND.
Kuku!

In exchange of your innocence, though
BUT COMPARED TO WHEN YOU TRANSFERRED, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER?
Before
After
WELL, I'M STILL TOTALLY BEAUTIFUL COMPARED TO HIM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BEAUTIFUL? AS IF.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, I ACTUALLY THINK HE'S BECOME CUTE.
WELL, YOU CERTAINLY DON'T GIVE OFF A CUTE FEELING, NATSUME.
I KNOW, RIGHT? MAKE ONE WRONG STEP AND YOU'D GENERALLY LOOK HARSH.
STOP IT! STOP WITH THAT SORT OF SERIOUS DAMAGE TO ME!
Wahahaha!
AH HA HA HA!
Pat Pat
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY. I DON'T THINK OF YOU LIKE THAT.
MEN ARE WEAK AGAINST THOSE WHO GIVE THEM A CAREFREE SMILE.

THE SAME THING HAS PROBABLY HAPPENED TO SHUU WITH TSUBAKI.
SMILES ARE FRIGHTENING BECAUSE THEY CONTINUOUSLY BRING FORTH IRRESPONSIBLE FRIENDLINESS.
MOREOVER, THAT WAVE OF A FRIENDLINESS KEEPS FLOWING OUT AND ALL PILES UP ON ME.
SO FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, IT'S UNBEARABLE.

IT'S NOT LIKE THERE HAVEN'T BEEN GUYS AROUND ME UP UNTIL NOW WHO WERE FRIENDLY TO EVERYONE LIKE THAT.
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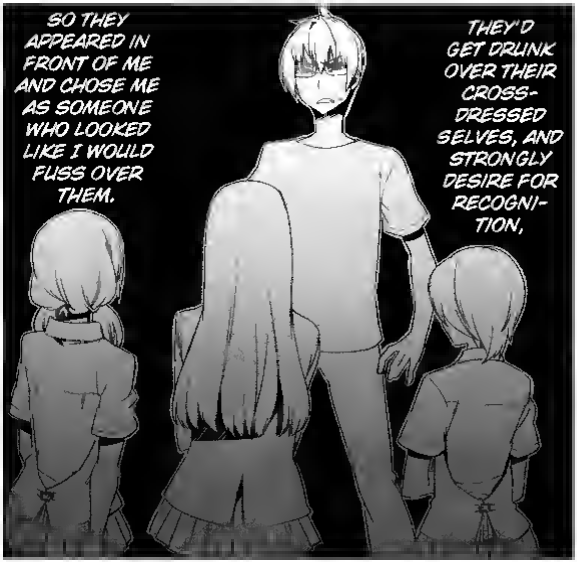
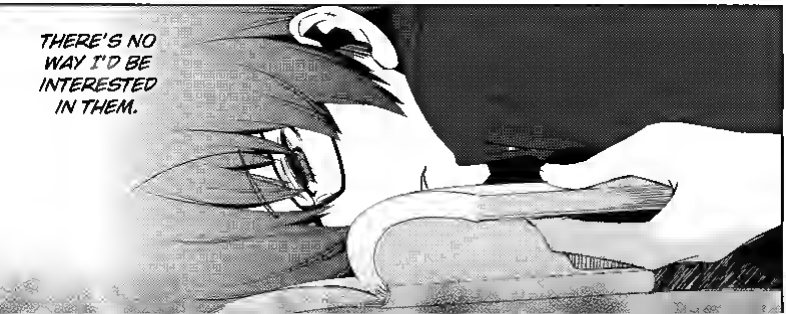
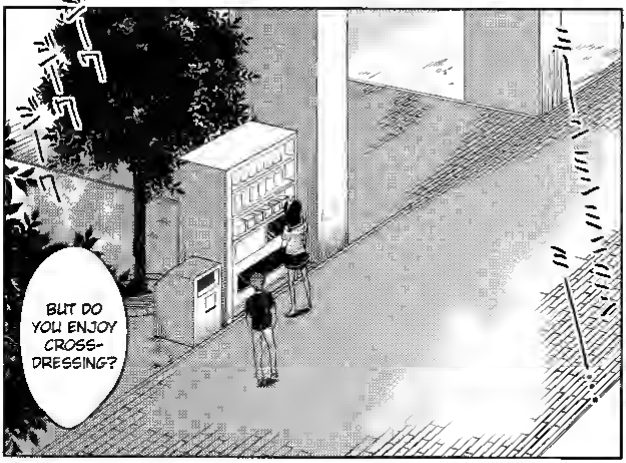

SO THEY APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME AND CHOSE ME AS SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE I WOULD FUSS OVER THEM.
THEY'D GET DRUNK OVER THEIR CROSS-DRESSED SELVES, AND STRONGLY DESIRE FOR RECOGNI-TION,

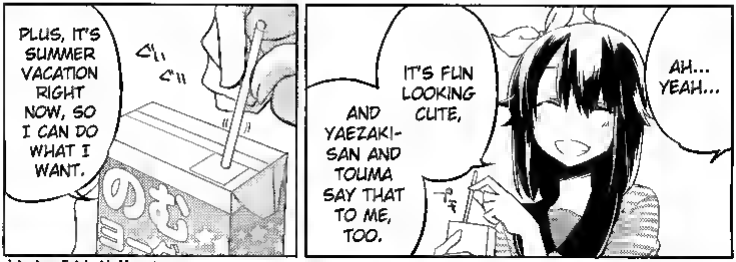
I WAS FRIENDS WITH THOSE SORTS OF GUYS IN GENERAL, AND IT'S NOT LIKE THEY REALLY LIKED SOME-ONE BORING LIKE ME.


THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE INTERESTED IN THEM.

IS BECAUSE THE SCHOOL TOLD ME TO BE KIND TO HIM,
BUT THE REASON WHY SHUU IS AN EXCEPTION
AND BEFORE I FELT IT NECESSARY TO KEEP MY DISTANCE, WE BECAME FRIENDS,
BECAUSE I HAD CHANGED.

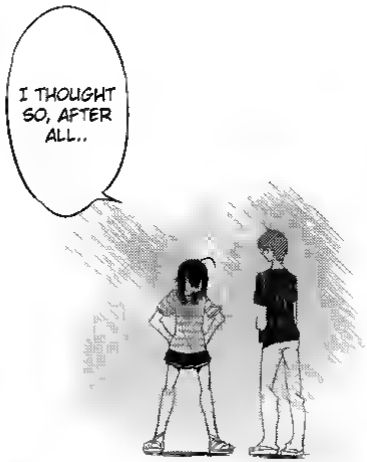
BEFORE I PUT MY GUARD UP, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WHEN HE'S AROUND.
NO, THIS IS NO GOOD. WHEN I'M CONSCIOUS OF IT, IT'S SO DEPRESSING.
HOW DEPRESSING.
I'M ALSO DEJECTED TOWARDS "ME WORRYING ABOUT IT".




PLUS, IT'S SUMMER VACATION RIGHT NOW, SO I CAN DO WHAT I WANT.
IT'S FUN LOOKING CUTE, AND YAEZAKI-SAN AND TOUMA SAY THAT TO ME, TOO.
AH... YEAH...

Juice box. Drinkable Yogurt

BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD WEAR MALE CLOTHES A LITTLE MORE?
I GUESS I JUST...GOT CARRIED AWAY...
.....
YEAH ...


I THOUGHT SO, AFTER ALL..

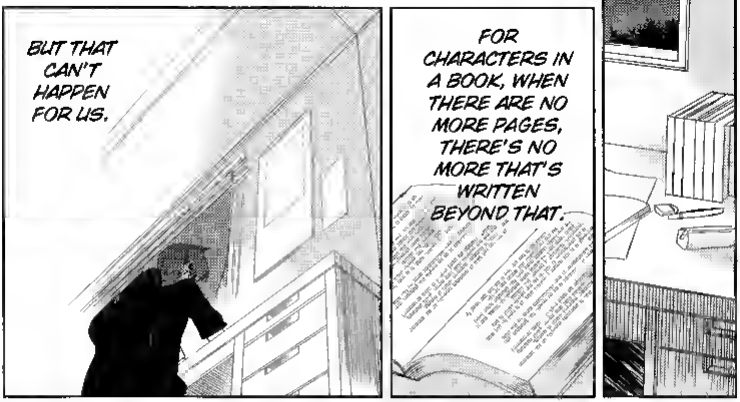
NO, THAT'S NOT...

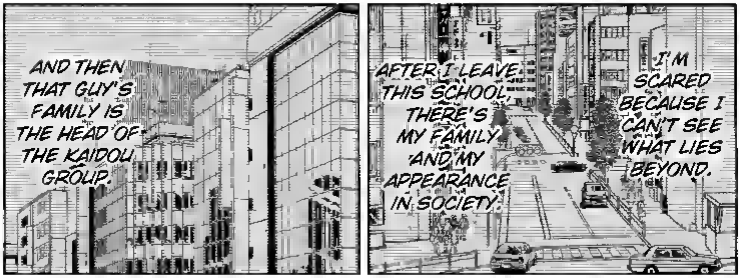
I WAS THINKING CROSS-DRESSING IN THE SUMMER-TIME WOULD BE DIFFI-CULT!
I DON'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU SAD.

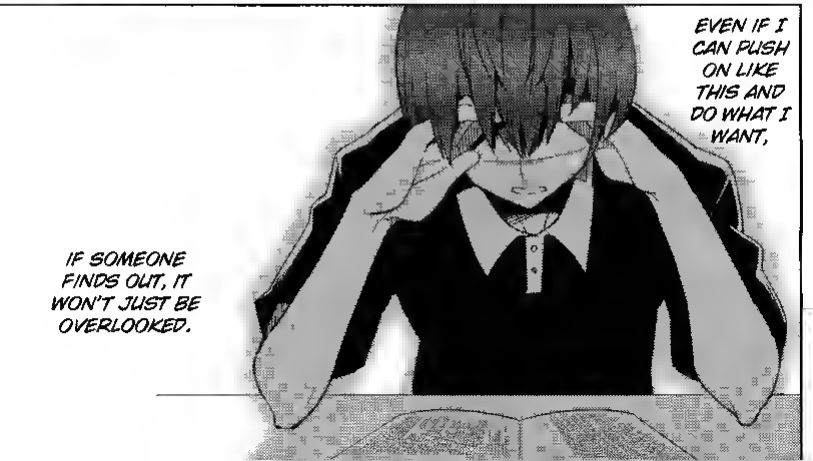
THAT'S NOT IT!
I MEAN, UM, LOOK, IT'S THE SUM-MER-TIME!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
YOU SEE, I TOTALLY LOOK LIKE A GUY, SO CROSS-DRESSING IN THE SUMMER-TIME IS ALWAYS HARD FOR ME!
Y-YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
...CERTAINLY, I GUESS IT'D BE EASIER IN THE WINTER BECAUSE YOU CAN HIDE YOUR BODY.
SO THAT I DON'T SUFFER, I'M ALWAYS SCARED OF FALLING INTO DESPAIR.
I'M SURE I WOULDN'T HAVE THESE FEELINGS.
I MEAN, WE DON'T HAVE CONVENIENT BODIES LIKE TSUBAKI!
IF SHUU DIDN'T CROSS-DRESS AND WE WERE REALLY NORMAL MALE FRIENDS,

THIS IS COMPLETELY OUT OF SELF-PROTECTION.
SO THAT I DON'T GET HURT, I HURT ANOTHER PERSON WHO WAS FINALLY HAVING FUN.
IN THE PAST, I WOULD HAVE STOPPED AT THE LAST MOMENT,
AND COMPLETELY PRETENDED I WAS A BYSTANDER.
I'M SCARED.


BUT THAT CAN'T HAPPEN FOR US.
FOR CHARACTERS IN A BOOK, WHEN THERE ARE NO MORE PAGES, THERE'S NO MORE THAT'S WRITTEN BEYOND THAT.


AND THEN THAT GUY'S FAMILY IS THE HEAD OF THE KAIDOU GROUP.
AFTER I LEAVE THIS SCHOOL, THERE'S MY FAMILY AND MY APPEARANCE IN SOCIETY.
I'M SCARED BECAUSE I CAN'T SEE WHAT LIES BEYOND.


EVEN IF I CAN PUSH ON LIKE THIS AND DO WHAT I WANT,
IF SOMEONE FINDS OUT, IT WON'T JUST BE OVERLOOKED.

THERE YOU ARE.
Library
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUMMER VACATION, AS USUAL YOU'RE A BOOKWORM WHO DOESN'T GO ANYWHERE.
ガラッ
OR IS IT THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE AWAY FROM THE SCHOOL AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE?
HERE YOU GO.
...WHAT?
THIS IS MY WAY OF SHOWING CONCERN.
I WON'T SAY WHAT FOR,

BUT FROM MY VIEWPOINT, YOU'RE LIKE AN OPEN BOOK.
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?
IF YOU DON'T GET TO THE POINT BY USING A SUBJECT AND A PREDICATE,
I WON'T PROPERLY TELL YOU, EITHER.
YOU...

YOU'RE SO UNFAIR.
Nihi!

THAT'S NOT IT.
AH, OR COULD IT BE THAT YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND SINCE THEN AND WANT ME TO EXPOSE IT FOR YOU. IF IT CAN'T BE HELPED, TALK IT OVER WITH ME
YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE TO FIND OUT, RIGHT?
NO MATTER HOW TALL I GET,
...THAT'S NOT IT.

I SEE.
GUYS BURDENED WITH A LOT SURE HAVE IT ROUGH.
I'M SO GLAD I'M CAREFREE!
THIS GUY HAS ALWAYS SEEN THROUGH ME, AND PEEKS INTO MY HEAD FROM ABOVE.
.....
AND EVEN IF I STUDY A LOT AND ARM MY HEART,
THIS GUY SEEMS TO CALCULATE, AND COMES TO SKILLFULLY SLIP PAST THE WALLS IN MY HEART AS IF WITH A WILD SENSE OF SMELL!

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ONCE RAN AWAY FROM THE VARIOUS TROUBLES OF BEING FROM A POLITICAL FAMILY.
JUST BE CAREFUL.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY, ALTHOUGH I WAS ATTRACTED IN THE PAST, I STOPPED MYSELF AT THE LAST MOMENT.
WELL...
.....
THAT'S ALL.
I GUESS TSUBAKI, WHO HAS NOTHING AT ALL, IS ONCE AGAIN LAUGHING
AT THE SON OF A POLITICIAN WHO'S BURDENED WITH A LOT OF THINGS AND CAN'T MOVE ABOUT FREELY.

WHETHER YOU'RE HAPPY OR NOT ISN'T SOMETHING THAT'S DECIDED BY YOUR UPBRINGING.

AOI ANGUISHES OVER A QUESTION HE HAS NO ANSWER FOR, BUT...

TO BE CONTINUED

Reversible
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